

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8, 10 and 12-15 are presently pending in this application, Claims 1-8 and 10 having been amended and Claims 12-15 having been newly added by the present amendment.

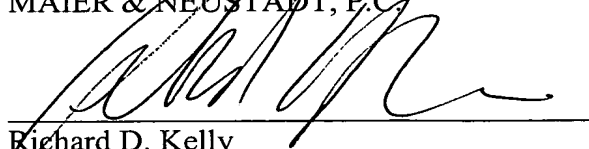
In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-8 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for being indefinite; and Claims 1, 2, 4, 7 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Nakano et al. (U.S. Patent 6,416,578).

First, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the courtesy of an interview granted to Applicants' representative on February 10, 2006. During the interview, the outstanding issues were discussed and arguments in support of the patentability were presented. In particular, it was pointed out that Nakano et al. does not disclose a single crystal substrate having a surface including both a basal plane portion and a polar plane portion. As a result of the interview, the Examiner indicated that the outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Nakano et al. appear to be overcome if the pending claims were amended as presented in the present amendment. Therefore, Applicants have amended Claims 1-8 and 10 accordingly and added new Claims 12-15. These amendments and additions in the claims are believed to be supported by the specification, claims and drawings as originally filed, for example, paragraph [0018] and Figure 2 of the specification. Thus, all the pending claims are believed to be in compliance with the requirements of the statute. Also, the amendments are believed to be merely cosmetic and thus are not believed to narrow the scopes of the claims. If, however, the Examiner disagrees, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned who will be happy to work in a joint effort to derive mutually satisfactory claim language.

In view of the amendments and discussions presented above, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early action favorable to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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